MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Cherokee Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

UNITY CHURCH,

South Spring Creek,

CHEROKEE COUNTY, ALABAMA.

COMMENCING ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE 3D SABBATH IN AUGUST, 1856.

"COOSA RIVER ARGUS," Print.,

Centre, Alabama,

1856.

MINUTES.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1856.

The Delegates composing the *Cherokee Baptist Association* met with Unity Church, county of Cherokee, Alabama, on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in August, 1856.

1. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder John B. Appleton, from the 39th verse and 5th chapter of John's Gospel:—"Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me."

2. The Association then convened prayer by the Moderator.

3. Letters from the Churches were called for, and names of delegates enrolled, except the Churches Mount Olivet, Antioch and Providence, which had no representation present.

4. Mount Pleasant, Union and Fair View Churches had a delegation present without certificates—on motion, they were received.

5. Called for petitionary letters—none offered.

6. Proceeded to elect Moderator and Clerk for the present year.—Elected Elder W. C. Mynatt Moderator, and brother John B. Walden, of Lebanon, De Kalb county, Ala., Clerk.

7. Called for Correspondence. Received Elders P. Archer and E. T. Smith as corresponding messengers from the Ten Islands Association, and Elder Thomas Grogan and B. M. Powell from the Coosa Baptist Association, Georgia. It further being made known that Elder Jesse A. Collins was present, upon motion he was invited to a seat with the body, as agent of the Southern Board of Indian and Domestic Missions, with liberty to present the claims of his agency.

8. Appointed as Committee on Preaching, Brothers James Grogan, S. O. Bankson, from the Church; A. Hawkins, G. Appleton and G. W. Crow from the body. Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, 16th.

Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by the Moderator.

1. On motion, letter from the Gadsden Church received, and delegates' name enrolled.

2. Elder J. H. Eaton, President of the Union University of Murfreesborough, Tennessee, and Elder Platt Stout, Agent of the Southern Board Publication Society, being present, were invited to seats with the body.

3. On motion, committees on the following subjects were appointed to report at the next annual meeting of the body at Pleasant Grove

Church, De Kalb county, Ala., Friday before the third Sabbath in August, 1857: 1st, Domestic and Indian Missions; 2d, Foreign Mission; 3d, Bible Cause; 4th, Temperance; 5th, Education. Committees on subjects below report at the present session viz: on the State of Religion, M. H. Turner, A. B. Smith and A. W. Canning; on Finance, Bros. Joseph B. High and A. Hawkins, on Correspondence, Elder J. J. D. Renfroe, H. C. Golightly, and F. M. Hardwick; on Publications, J. B. Walden, Elder J. B. Appleton and Elder G. W. Eaton.

4. The Ministers' and Deacons' meetings for the first district will be held with the Church at Mount Bethel, Cherokee county, commencing on Friday before the 2d Sabbath in July, 1857; for the second district, with the Union Church, De Kalb county, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1857.

5. Appointed Elders J. B. Appleton, J. J. D. Renfroe and Bro. C. W. Lay, delegates to the Baptist State Convention—J. B. Appleton to write. Adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

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Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by Elder J. J. D. Renfroe.

1. Brother Walden, Clerk elect, received information that a member of his family was sick, and desired the body to release him from service, that he might return home. His request was granted, and upon motion, brother A. Hawkins was appointed to fill his vacancy as Clerk during the present session.

2. On motion by Elder J. J. D. Renfroe, that the Missionary sermon which was to be preached by himself under appointment by the body at last session for the present session, be dispensed with at this time, and a Missionary mass meeting take place at 3 o'clock, P. M., on the same Sabbath, in place of the Missionary sermon.

3. Reports on the following subjects were read and adopted, viz:

On the State of Religion—see Exhibit R
On Finance, " F
On Correspondence, " C

(Report on Publications mislaid, or not handed in.)

4. On motion, agreed to open a correspondence with the Coosa River Association—correspondence opened with this body at our present session.

5. Appointed corresponding messengers to the following Associations: To the Tallassehatchee, Elder W. C. Mynatt, Bros. C. W. Lay, F. M. Hardwick and H. C. Golightly—brother F. M. Hardwick to write; to the Ten Islands, Elders G. W. Eaton, W. C. Mynatt, M. Hendrix, C. W. Lay, Licentiate—M. Turner to write; to the Coosa River, Elders W. C. Mynatt, J. J. D. Renfroe, C. W.

Lay, and M. H. Turner and H. O. Golightly to write; to the Coosa Baptist Association, Geo., Elders W. C. Mynatt, J. B. Appleton, G. W. Eaton, J. J. D. Renfroe and John Lawrence—brothers F. M. Hardwick and J. J. D. Renfroe to write.

6. Appointed distributing agents, whose business shall be to distribute the Minutes, when printed: For the first district, H. O. Golightly, S. J. Williams; 2d district, A. B. Smith and J. B. Walden.

7. Agreed that the next meeting of this body convene with the Pleasant Grove Church, De Kalb county, Ala., on Friday before the third Sabbath in August, 1857.

8. Elder W. C. Mynatt appointed to preach the next introductory sermon before this body, which is to convene at Pleasant Grove Church, De Kalb county, Ala., on Friday before the third Sabbath in August, 1857—William Kimzie his alternate.

9. Elder W. C. Mynatt to deliver the next Missionary sermon before this body at the time and place above mentioned—William Kimzie his alternate.

10. A request was made by the Holly Springs Church to this body, to select brethren to examine, and if found qualified, to proceed to ordain Br. A. W. Cunningham to the work of the Gospel Ministry. The following brethren were appointed: Elders W. C. Mynatt, J. J. D. Renfroe, and John B. Appleton, with the liberty of calling other brethren to aid in the ordination. Upon examination by the presbytery, brother A. W. Cunningham was found qualified, and ordained to the Gospel Ministry.

11. Upon motion, agreed to hear an address from Elder Joseph H. Eaton, President of the Union University of Murfreesborough, Tenn., upon the subject of Ministerial Education, on Sabbath evening, at which time he will lay before the body and congregation, the propriety of providing means for the purpose of clothing N. D. C. Renfroe, Licentiate, while prosecuting his study at the Union University, Murfreesborough, Tennessee.

12. After the address delivered by Elder J. H. Eaton, there was a public collection taken for the above named object, amounting to cash $37.50, paid to N. D. C. Renfroe, and twenty-five dollars in pledges—the amount of pledges in the hands of W. C. Mynatt, to be applied to the use and benefit of N. D. C. Renfroe, when collected from those subscribing the same. Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

Sabbath Labors.

The stand was occupied on Sabbath at 9 o'clock, by Elder Platt Stout—text, the 4th chapter of Hebrews, 15th and 16th verse. At 10 o'clock by Elder J. H. Eaton—text, Gallatins 6th chap. 8 v.—

Both of whom preached the Gospel with unusual power and clearness to a large congregation, who were enchanted with its beauty, and their minds fastened by the force of the whole truth. We can but believe that the effect was salutary and happy, the fruits of which will glorify God in eternity.

At 3 o'clock in the evening, the Missionary Mass Meeting came off. Elder Jesse A. Collins addressed the large audience in an interesting speech on the subject of Indian and Domestic Missions. Other brethren delivered short discourses on missions, after which there was a public collection taken, amounting to $20.78, and $105 pledged for Indian and Domestic Missions.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. H. Eaton.—Called the roll and marked absentees.

1. On motion, agreed that 600 copies of these Minutes be printed, and that the Clerk superintend the printing of the same, and he be allowed for his services the over-plus which was given by the Churches for printing the same, and that the $3 for associational purposes be applied to the printing of the Minutes, with the other funds sent up from the churches for the like purpose.

2. Agreed to receive the resolution offered by Elder Jesse A. Collins—see letter M.

3. Paid by order of the body to Elder Platt Stout, $6.10, a part of the public collection taken on Sabbath for foreign missions—also, ordered by the body to pay Elder W. C. Mynatt $14.68, the balance of public collection taken on Sabbath for domestic and indian mission.

4. On motion of Elder J. B. Appleton, adopted brother N. D. C. Renfroe, Licentiate, as our beneficiary of Union University, Murfreesborough, Tennessee.

5. Appointed the following committees, to report at our next annual meeting:

On Domestic and Indian Missions—Elder J. B. Appleton, C. W. Lay. A, B. Smith.

On Foreign Missions—Bro's M. H. Turner, J. S. Bankson, F. M. Hardwick.

On Bible Cause—Bro's C. W. Lay, M. H. Turner, Jno. Lawrence.

Temperance—Br'r J. B. Walden, Elders G. W. Eaton, A. W. Cunningham.

Education—Bro's W. F. M. Hill, John Lawrence, W. C. Mynatt.

Adjourned till Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by Elder William Kimzie.

1 It being made known upon inquiry, that bro' Claiborne Puckett held a full file of the Minutes of this Association since it was organized, upon motion, a request was made that he deliver up to the body the same, which he did, with a full file except the Minutes of 1843, which were filed with other documents belonging to the Association.

2 On motion, agreed to adopt the resolution offered by brother *C. W. Lay*—see letter N.

3 On motion, agreed to adopt the resolutions offered by Elder *J. J. D. Renfroe*—see letters B and D.

4 On motion, agreed that Elder *J. J. D. Renfroe* be allowed Sabbath night of our next annual meeting, to deliver a discourse on the Bible cause—in case of failure, some other br. to fill the appointment.

5 On motion, agreed to place upon our Minutes the action of the Baptist Bible Society, as had on the 18th of August, 1856, at Unity church, *C*herokee county, Ala., and that the society pay for the printing and annexing the same—see letter Y.

6 By request of Elder *J*esse A. *C*ollins, agreed to place upon our Minutes, as paid by churches to him as agent of the Southern Board for Indian and Domestic Missions, the following, in pledges and cash: Union church, De Kalb county, $27 20; Pleasant Grove church $12 50; Gadsden church, $9 25; W H Willoughby, pledge for domestic mission $5.

7 A contribution taken on Sabbath evening of the missionary mass meeting for the purpose of supporting a preacher in the *C*herokee Indian Nation, to be paid by the first of *January*, 1857—pledges as follows: J J D Renfroe, $5 00; G W Eaton $5 00; G *J* W'mson 5 00; H O Golightly 5 00; *J*ohn Lawrence 5 00; F M Hardwick 5 00; M H Turner 5 00; S J Williams 5 00; Mrs Emily E Lawrence 5 00; E Morgan 5 00; *M*artha J Williamson 5 00; T N Appleton 5; *J* S Bankson 5; *M*rs N Lawrence 5; W P Golightly 5; John *J*ames 2 50; J B High 2 50; *J* Espy 2 50; C Puckett 2 50; *J*ohn Long 2 50; A J *M*ackey 2 50; J B Eades 2 50; E S Rawls 2 50; Jeremiah Lawrence 2 50; Patrick Lawrence 2 50; A Hawkins 2 50; A *M* Harten 2 50.

8 *Resolved*, That the gratitude of this Association be acknowledged to the Great Giver of all good for the kind hospitality extended to us by the members of the church, and its vicinity.

The Association then, with brotherly love and kindness, adjourned to meet at the time and place heretofore designated.

W. *C. M*YNATT, *Moderator*.

A. HAWKINS, *Clerk*.

EXHIBIT B.

Your committee on the state of Religion report as follows:—From the reading of the letters and other information that we have been able to gather, it appears that the Churches generally are in a cold state. The statistics showing a net gain of only twenty-six members during the Associational year that has just closed. But few of the Churches have had a revival to cheer them and encourage them to press forward in the cause of our Blessed Master, and your committee fear that there is something wrong in the camps; for we believe it to be a fact, that when Zion traveleth, she will bring forth, and thus God is more willing to give good gifts to his children than are natural parents to their offspring. May we not fear that we have asked amiss, or that we have faith to wrestle with God as it is our duty and privilege to do? In conclusion, your committee suggests that the importance of prayer meetings, Sabbath schools, the mission cause, and a more enlarged benevolence in every sense, be urged upon the churches, for until we consecrate ourselves and our substance more fully to the cause of Christ, we need not expect a large increase in our numbers.

Respectfully Submitted, M. H. TURNER, Chairman.

EXHIBIT C.

The committee on correspondence report as follows:—There appears nothing in the minutes of the several Associations with whom we correspond, of an enterprising nature that seems to demand of us as a body a formal notice, or action. Yet our Brethren are all trying to advance in the great objects that come before them, for the promotion of the Redeemers Kingdom.

It nevertheless, is painful to us as a committee, to discharge what we humbly believe to be our duty in noticing the Coosa Baptist Association. At the last Session of that body, the persons excluded from Pleasant Grove Church, DeKalb Co., termed the Mitchel party, together with those Churches who have rendered themselves disorderly by becoming party defendants in the errors of that party, were received into the Coosa Baptist Association as constituent parts of that body. To say the least, those persons received by them as Pleasant Grove Church, are recognized by us as expelled persons, with them we have neither Church nor christian fellowship—with them we cannot walk, for we are not agreed. Unless the action of that body is retracted, a further correspondence cannot consistently exist between the two Associations. Hence we recommend the following:—

Resolved, That the correspondence with the Coosa Association be continued this year, and that a letter and Messengers be sent to the next meeting of that Association, requesting them to retrace their steps in receiving those excluded members of Pleasant Grove Church, and informing them that in case they decline so to do the correspondence will by us be considered closed. If, however, they comply, we will be gratified to keep up the union and correspondence which has so happily existed for a number of years.

We recommend this course because, in the judgment of your committee, consistency, self respect, self defence, and above all, truth and justice, requires it at our hands as an Association.

Respectfully Submitted, J. J. D. RENFROE, Chairman.

EXHIBIT B. & D.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to all our brethren in this Association, the great necessity of every family's taking and reading a good religious periodical: and we again recommend the South Western Baptist and Tennessee Baptist as every way worthy our patronage, and for our children, we should certainly take the "Childs Book," and the Southern Baptist Review for our Ministers.

Resolved, That we believe that it is inconsistent with the principles of Baptists, and consequently wrong for Baptists to recognize Pedo-Baptist Preachers as Gospel Ministers, by inviting them to preach or perform other Ministerial duties.

EXHIBIT F.

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows:—

Amount of contribution for Minutes, - - - - -	$53,30
Amount of public collection for Indian and domestic Missions, -	20,78
Cash and pledges for Indian and domestic Missions, as follows:	
Union Church, Cherokee Co. - - - - -	27,20
Pleasant Grove Church, - - - - - -	12,50
Gadsden Church, - - - - - - -	9,25
Domestic Mission—pledge, W. H Willoughby, - -	5,00
Amount, paid to J. A. Collins; Rev. A. W. Cunningham. - .	1,00
Rev. W. C. Mynatt, ...	1,00

EXHIBIT N.

Resolved, That giving in charity is a grace of the Spirit (See 2 Cor., 8, 7,) alms-giving an office of Christian Worship, and collections for the spread of the Gospel an ordinance of God, and is the appointed means of God to his people to aid them in subduing their covetousness, and that we request and advise each Minister of this Association to preach once a year on this subject at each of his preaching places.

EXHIBIT M.

Resolved, That the Cherokee Baptist Association will make an effort to secure the services and to sustain a *White Missionary*, from the *South*, in the Cherokee Nation, under appointment of the Board Indian Missions S. Bap. Con. And that the sum of $14,68, collected on yesterday, go into that fund for that purpose, as well as $28,45, collected from Churches in our bounds by Jesse A. Collins, agent, and that a committee of the following persons be appointed to wit:—

to make an effort to secure pledges of $5,00 each, from 50 persons, for five years, to sustain a White Missionary in the said Cherokee Nation.

Resolved, Also, that the committee aforesaid be authorized to correspond with the Ten Island & Talaschatchee Association, to secure if needs be, the co-operation of these Associations, in carrying out this project of sustaining a White Missionary in the Cherokee Nation from the *South*.

Ordained Ministers.	Post Office.
WM. KIMZIE,	Valley Head, Ala.
G. W. EATON,	" "
W. C. MYNATT,	Cedar Bluff, "
JACOB COFFMAN,	Gaylesville, "
J. A. REEVES,	Duck Springs, "
J. J. D. RENFROE,	" " "
J. B. APPLETON,	Van Buren, "
MADISON HENDRIX,	Turkey Town, "
WADE SLATON,	Guntersville, "
M. R. LYON,	Lyonville, "
A. W. CUNNINGHAM,	Alpine, Ga.
Licentiates.	
J. S. BANKSON,	Lebanon, Ala.
E. T. WILLINGHAM,	Cedar Bluff, "
A. B SMITH,	Duck Springs, "
C. W. LAY,	Hendrixville, "
N. D. C. RENFROE,	Murfreesborough, Tenn.
ROBERT COMER,	Lyonville, Ala.
S. E. BROOKS,	Lebanon, "

EXHIBIT Y.

The Association suspended business for the purpose of forming a Bible Society, auxiliary to the Alabama Baptist Bible Colpoteure Society at Selma.

1. On motion, Elder J. J. D. Renfroe was appointed Chairman, and Brother M. H. Turner Secretary.

2. On motion, Elder John B. Appleton was Elected President, and C. W. Lay Vice President for the ensuing year. Also, Elder W. C. Mynatt Treasurer, and Brother M. H. Turner Secretary.

3. On motion, appointed a Board consisting of Elders W. C. Mynatt, J. J. D. Renfroe, and Brethren John Lawrence, H. O. Golightly, and J. B. Walden, whose duty it shall be to manage the business of the Society.

4. The following Brethren became members for one year, by paying the amount required by the Constitution, (viz:) Elder Platt Stout, Elder J. A. Collins, Elder M. Hendrix, Elder J. J. D. Renfroe.

5. Elder Wm. Kmizey was made a life member by donation.

6. Appointed Elder J. J. D. Renfroe to deliver the annual address, and Elder John B. Appleton his alternate.

7. Appointed the next meeting of the society to be held with Cedar Bluff Church, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in January next.

8. On motion, requested the Association to publish the proceedings of the society on the face of their minutes.

9. On motion, adjourned to meet at the time and place appointed.

Statement of the Churches for the year 1856.

Churches & Counties.	P. O.	Names of Delegates.	By wh'm supplied.	Sab of meet	Baptized	Received	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Dead	Whites	Blacks	Totals	For Minutes	
Cedar Bluff, Cherokee,	Cedar Bluff,	W. C. Mynatt, J. J. D. Renfroe, F. M. Hardwick, A. Hawkins,	Wm C Mynatt,	2	2	6		11	7		124	21	145	$4 65	
Unity, "	"	Jas. Grogan, C. Puckett, S. O. Bankston,	"	4	6	3	1	9			65		65	4.00	
Mill Creek, "	Gaylesville,	U. O. Golightly, S. Miller, J. B. High,	J J D Renfroe,	3		2					60		60	2,50	
Yellow Creek, "	Leesburg,	S. J. Williams, A. J. Mackey, J. W. Hill,*	Wm C Mynatt,	1	3	2		10		1	64	2	66	2.50	
Lebanon, "	Turkeytown,	M. Hendrix, R. Penn, P. M. Turner,*	M Hendrix,	1	12	4		35			47		47	2,25	
Mt. Bethel, "	Cobb's Mill,	G. W. Eaton, N. Richey, Jas. McGhee,*	G W Eaton,	2		9		8			20		20	1,50	
Providence, "	Gaylesville,	Not represented.													
Gadsden, "	Gadsden,	M H Turner, A W Kelling,* J H Gardner,*	J B Appleton,	1		11					14	3	17	2.00	
Holly Springs, "	Alpine,	Wm Kinzey, A W Cunningham, J Moore,	Wm Kinzey,	4	6	5		7	1		22		22	1,75	
Hopewell, Marshall,	Duck Spring,	W J Miller, S A Conn,* J P Stallings,*	Wade Slaton,	1	16	2					26		26	1.00	
Union, De Kalb,	"	J A Reeve,* C W Lay, A B Smith, J P Johnson	J A Reeves,	4	7	6		6			99	10	109	2,00	
Macedonia, "	Sand Mt.	A Hall, J W Glaisner,* J B Hefner,*	G W Masters,	2	2	2		6	2	1	36	2	38	1,00	
Pleasant Grove, "	Van Buren,	J B and G Appleton, Vann Hall,	J B Appleton,	3	8	13		7	4	1	70	10	80	2,60	
Antioch, "	Rawlingsville,	Not represented.													
Fair View, "	Duck Spring,	S Morgan, James Yeargan,												1,00	
Mt. Harmony, "	Lebanon,	G W Crow, J S Bradston, J B Walden,	J B Appleton,	4	1	5		6			34	2	36	2.00	
Mt. Pleasant, Marshall,	Guntersville,	Wade Slaton, G P [illegible]		3	5	10	2	5			32		22	1.60	
Mt. Olivet, Jackson,	Aytonville,	No representation													